



## Newsletter



*Its 2025! At the start of a new year, people set goals and resolutions. Messages on social media, in magazines, and on podcasts provide “expert” advice as to how and what we need to do in order to become this “better you”. Sometimes it feels like a kind invitation. Other messages are more guilt inducing like: need to lose weight and exercise more, especially after over indulging during the Christmas holiday. Let’s be honest, who doesn’t need to lose a few inches around the waist and get back in shape – I’m just saying - LOL!*

*Guilt-inducing or not, what we are to be thankful for is that God blesses each of us with do overs. If we mess up – God will give us a do over. When the goals and resolutions are not met as we had hoped, God’s grace opens the door to allow us to have a do over.*

*Knowing that we were going to experience challenges and temptations in trying to keep our goals and resolutions, our do over process began when God made His dwelling with us on earth in human form. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. John 1: 1-2, 14 (NSRV)*

*God became fully human and fully God, and lived among us in the person of Jesus Christ – so that we could all receive a do over. No matter what we’ve done in our*

*past or last year; in Jesus Christ, there is always room for a do over. And when we take that step forward in faith in Christ, the apostle Paul reminds us in 2Corinthians 5:17 that, “if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” That’s right beloved, you are a new creature – meaning you were giving a do over.*

*As we reflect upon last year while moving forward into the new year, may we be exceedingly and joyfully thankful that God continues to allow do overs. Not because we deserve it, but because God loves us and wants the very best for us this year and for eternity! Thanks Be to God!*

*Peace,*

*Pastor Rhonda*



## MONTH OF SERVICES

### **Jan 5 (Epiphany Sunday /Communion)**

Ushers: Jeane Howard, Diana Vincent, Rick Gilcher, Sherry Hynes

Camera Operator: Val Gilcher

Video Coordinator: Lisa Sutherland

Worship Leader: Sue Alexander

Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Lectionary scriptures: Ephesians 3:1-12, Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7,10-14 (UM795),Matthew 2:1-12

Fellowship Host: Hales

### **Jan 12th (Human Relations Day/Baptism of the Lord)**

Ushers: Sharon Minick, Bill Hancock, Lynda Larson, Banks Babjak

Camera Operator: Jill Hale

Video Coordinator: Erica Babjak

Worship Leader: Deb Anderson

Sermon: Tammy Bronson

Lectionary scriptures: Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29 (UM761), Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Fellowship Host: Laura Becker

### **Jan 19th**

Ushers: Evelyn and Dennis Scalione, Sally Maxwell, Charlotte Parisi

Camera Operator: Banks Babjak

Video Coordinator: Dan Attanasio

Worship Leader: Laura Attanasio

Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Lectionary scriptures: Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10 (UM771), 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

Fellowship Hosts: Tammy and Donna Bronson

### **Jan 26th**

Ushers: Lyle Cubberly, Lynn Sellers, David Moore, Bob Morrison

Camera Operator: Val Gilcher

Video Coordinator: Karin Thelin

Worship Leader: Banks Babjak

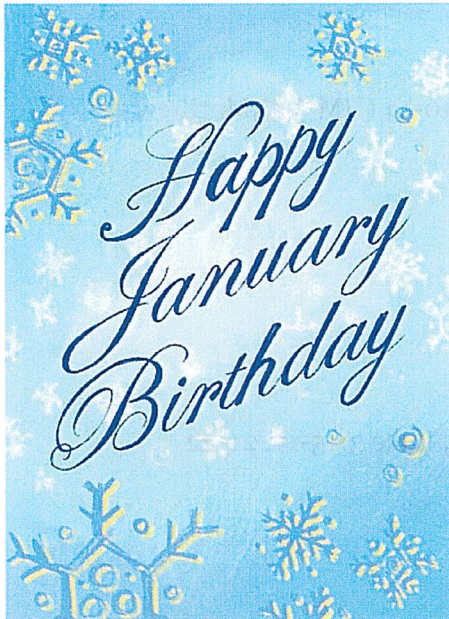
Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Lectionary scriptures: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Psalm 19 (UM750), 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21

Fellowship Host: Bev Bowen



*Thank you once again for all who helped make the Holly Fair a success. The final amount was: **\$4,468.00***



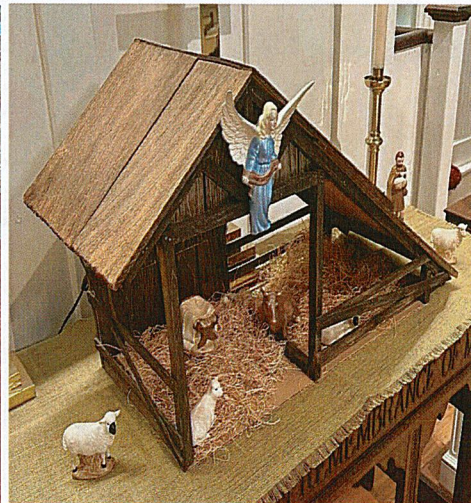
3rd Heidi Hayes  
4th Dennis Dollahite  
9th Rick Gilcher, Kelly Patten  
11th Nathan Becker  
12th Clarke McKinnon, Brynn Egan  
15th Brooke Hawes  
17th Jeff Durnin  
18th Lisa Sutherland  
21st Kevin Byington, Gerald Cotter, Jenifer Cardarelli  
22nd Karen Johns-Ahern  
23rd Jeane Howard, Norma Bucko  
25th Brenda Griswold  
28th Gavin Bell  
29th Diana Vincent  
31st Siena Lee



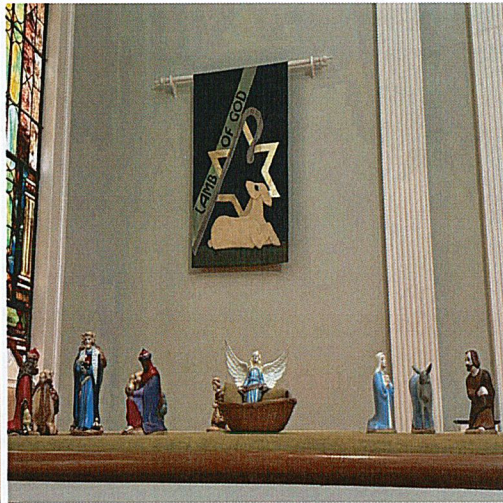
1st Sandi and Michael McKinnon  
23rd Sherrie and Roger Marlowe



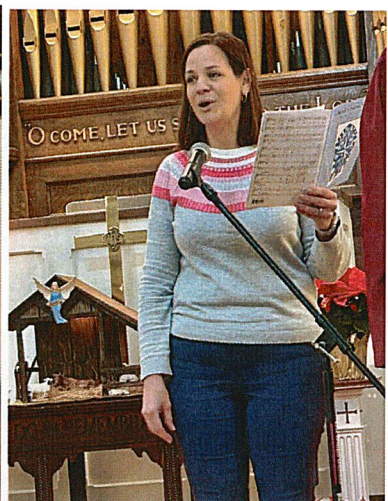
## Church Happenings



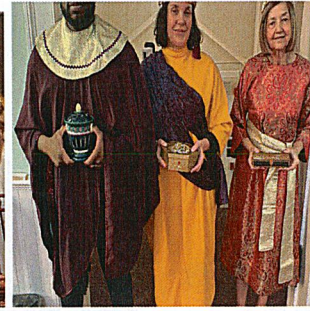
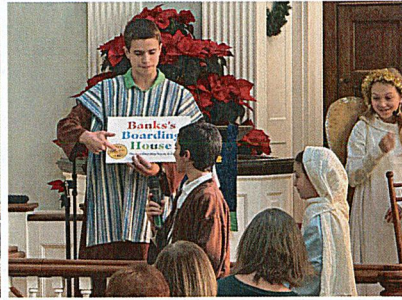
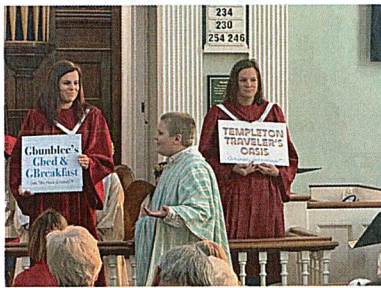












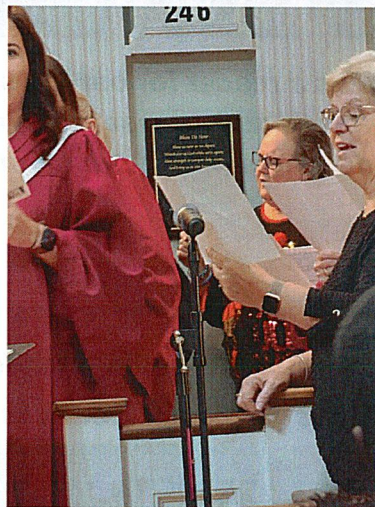
*The Clever Crafters proved that they're also the Capable Cooks as they provided quite the array of fellowship snacks one Sunday. Thank you all!*







*On Christmas Eve Theo and Lydia assisted Pastor Rhonda and Laura Attanasio with the lighting of our Advent wreath culminating with the lighting of the Christ candle.*



*Members of the congregation were invited to sing the chorus of O Holy Night at the Christmas Eve service. It was wonderful.*



*Thanks to everyone who served as a reader for our Lessons and Carols service this past Sunday. It was wonderful to celebrate the season with the familiar scriptures of Jesus' birth and sing some of our favorite carols!*

*Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the Adopt a Family this year. Judy, Laura B., Sally, Alex and Pastor Rhonda were honored to deliver the gifts to Social Services.*



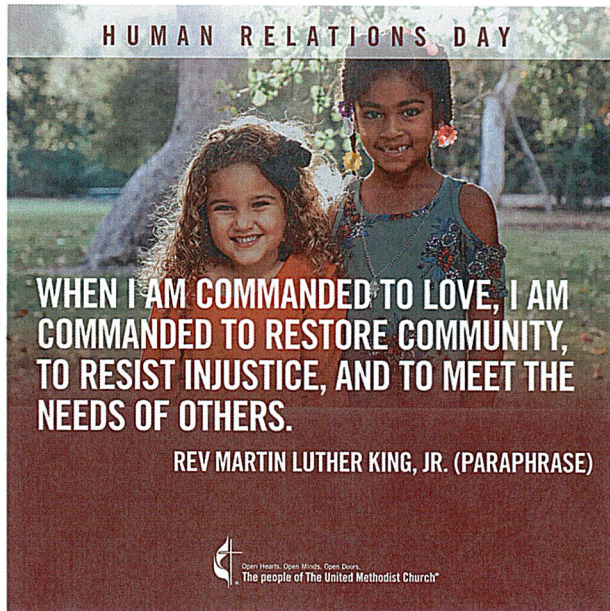


## ***2nd Annual January Soup Sale***

*Sunday, January 26th after church 11:00am - 1:00pm*

*All Sales will Benefit the Holy Advent Church Refugee/Immigrant Fund*

*Soup makers needed! A sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. We ask that you make enough soup for four quart size containers that we will provide. Drop off your soup the day before on Saturday the 25th from 10am - 1pm. Last year we raised \$1,200 during our sale! Let's recreate this successful event and bring some warmth to our bellies and those of immigrant and refugee families in our community. See a member of the Missions Committee if you have questions.*



### **HUMAN RELATIONS DAY – JANUARY 12, 2025**

**The Human Relations Day offering supports social justice and outreach ministries that empower all God's children to realize their full potential as human beings in relationship with one another. This fund helps encourage that potential through ministries like the Community Developers Program, multiethnic ministries and countless other projects across the United Methodist**

**connection. Please give generously either using your special envelope or by writing a check to UMC Clinton with Humans Relations Day in the memo.**

***PS: If you haven't picked up your 2025 envelopes they will be available after church on January 5th in the Fellowship Hall or in the office.***

### **Office Staff**

Donna Carpenter, 860-669-8396, 9-1 weekdays

Email: [office@clintonctumc.org](mailto:office@clintonctumc.org)

Website: [www.clintonumc.org](http://www.clintonumc.org)

[Calendar link](#)

Financial Secretary: Jackie Blomberg

Treasurer: Carol Bell

### **Our Mission**

We celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit; being and making disciples of Christ by sharing God's gifts through word and deed.